

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5289

S E C R E T KINSHASA 7917

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, CG

SUBJECT: MORE ON TRIAL OF COLONEL MAMPA

REF: (A) LUBUMBASHI 0673, (B) LUBUMBASHI 0365

1. CONTRARY TO OUR EXPECTATIONS, LAWYER FOR COLONEL MAMPA, MBU NE LETANG, CALLED AT CONSULATE AT NOON ON AUGUST 19. HE SAID REASON WAS TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO JEFF, BUT HE IMMEDIATELY OPENED UP ON CASE OF COLOGL MAMPA.

2. MBU CONFIRMED POINTS MADE IN REFTEL A BY FRENCH CONSUL (APPARENTLY UNAWARE FRENCH HAD ALREADY GIVEN US SAME INFORMATION), BUT NOTED THAT MAMPA'S ROLE IN CIS EVACUATION WAS DIRECT PART OF ACCUSATION DURING TRIAL. HE SAID PROSECUTOR CHARGED THAT MAMPA'S PERMISSION FOR CIS EVACUATION WAS PART OF CAMPAIGN TO DEMORALIZE YDZ WHEN KOLWEZI UNDER ATTACK. MAMPA DENIED CHARGE AND TOLD ABOUT VISIT FROM COLONEL POWERS AND CIS SECURITY CHIEF ON EVACUATION DAY.

3. MBU SAID TRIAL CONDUCTED IN VERY OPEN MANNER AT KOLWEZI THEATER WITH LARGE AUDIENCE OF MILITARY AND

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CIVILIANS. THREE LAWYERS REPRESENTED MAMPA BEFORE TRIBUNAL OF FIVE MILITARY OFFICIALS. MBU HAD EASY ACCESS TO MAMPA IN DAYS BEFORE TRIAL. HE SAID OPENING OF TRIAL POSTPONED ON DAILY BASIS FROM BEGINNING OF WEEK. TRIAL BEGAN AT 9:00 ON AUGUST 17 AND TRIBUNAL REACHED GUILTY VERDICT ON EVENING OF SAME DAY. WHILE BASIC CHARGES AGAINST MAMPA KNOWN ON ABOUT JULY 28

(EXCLUDING CIS RELATIONSHIP), MODIFICATIONS CONTINUED
UNTIL NOON ON AUGUST 18 WHEN MBU SAID HE ACCIDENTALLY
SAW FINAL LIST.

4. MBU CHARACTERIZED CHARGES AS A JOKE AND SAID CASE
WAS EMPTY OF SUBSTANCE. ONLY CONNECTION WITH MUNGUYA
WAS THAT THEY WERE BOTH FROM MAI-NDOMBE SOUS-REGION OF
BANDUNDU, BUT NOT EVEN ACQUAINTED. HE ALSO SEEMED
WELL-AWARE THAT CIS EVACUATION AUTHORIZED BY KINSHASA.
MBU SPECULATED THAT IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO FIND HIGH-
LEVEL SCAPEGOAT FOR EARLY DISASTERS OF WAR AND CHOICE
AMONG BUMBA, ELUKI, AND MAMPA LEFT MAMPA AS THE MAN
LEAST CLOSE TO PRESIDENT.

5. MBU SAID TRIBUNAL DIVIDED ON GUILTY DECISION AND
INDIVIDUALS CLOSE TO PRESIDENCY MADE DIFFERENCE.
MBU SAID THEY PLAN TO APPEAL CONVICTION ON GROUNDS
THAT MILITARY TRIBUNAL NOT COMPETENT BODY TO TRY
MEMBER OF POLITICAL BUREAU. HE SAID MAMPA SHOULD GET
SAME LEVEL OF TRIAL AS PLANNED FOR NGUZA.

6. MBU SAID HE HAD TAKEN CASE BECAUSE MAMPA WAS SHIL-
HOOD FRIEND (MBU IS ALSO FROM MAI-NDOMBE). HE DID NOT
SEE ANY UNFAVORABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR HIMSELF FOR
DEFENDING MAMPA.

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7. CONSULATE COMMENT: MBU VERY OPEN IN HIS DISCUSSION
OF THE CASE, ALMOST WITH A DAMN THE CONSEQUENCES
ATTITUDE. WE TOOK EXTREMELY PASSIVE ROLE, BASICALLY
LISTENING TO WHATEVER HE HAD TO SAY.

8. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT MBU INFORMED US IN EARLY
JUNE IN VAGUE MANNER HE HAD PICKED UP RUMOR THAT I MIGHT
BE PNG'D. HE WAS ONE OF TWO LUBUMBASHI ZAIRIANS WHO
WITHOUT SOLICITATION, EXPRESSED CONCERN AND SUGGESTED
THAT SITTING TIGHT WAS BEST POLICY. HE ALSO IS OWNER
OF FARM WHERE I FIRST MET DR. MAMBIKA WHOSE SUBSEQUENT
CHARGES AGAINST ME WERE BASIS OF CND NOTE OF MAY 25.

9. WHILE GRANT PLOT INVOLVING MBU COULD BE ENVISIONED,
WE BELIEVE CIRCUMSTANCES UNRELATED. WE HAVE NEVER
SUSPECTED MBU, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF ROTARY, AS BEING
CND INFORMANT. RATHER HE IS INDEPENDENT AND OUTSPOKEN
LAWYER INVOLVED IN ALMOST EVERYTHING OF IMPORTANCE IN
SHABA. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE ARE KEEPING LOW PROFILE. BORG

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